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MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

# SIDELINES

August 30, 2006

Editorially independent

Vol. 82 No. 1

www.mtsusidelines.com

## TBR to consider hourly tuition charge

By Wesley Murchison

Campus Administration Editor

Students who attempt more than 12 credit hours per semester could see an increase in their tuition if a potential policy change by the Tennessee Board of Regents sees fulfillment.

Currently, tuition costs \$2,383 for in-state, undergraduate students who take 12 hours or more, but the tentative new cost scale would see fees increase by the hour beyond 12.

The reasoning comes in part from a desire to see students take enrollment more seriously, TBR officials said.

"First of all, some students take more than 12 hours and drop them pretty quickly, and that means some other students didn't get a chance at that seat," said Robert Adams, vice chancellor for business and finance at TBR.

"Another issue [is that] a part-time student pays for every hour they take, which means that they pay more than a full-time student."

According to the MTSU's Business Office Web site, tuition is broken down by hour starting at \$256 and increases by an average of \$200 an hour. The new hourly rate policy, which has been adopted by other universities in the country, would have a flat rate for every hour.

The tentative plan is currently in the research stages, and no definite increases are planned.

"We will try to figure out the hourly rate so it

will be the same total revenue to the university [as it is now]," Adams said.

After the initial review, Adams added, the rates could go down per hour to compensate for the increased revenue earned.

Adams and his staff will prepare a financial analysis to present before board members and university presidents.

The final decision on whether or not to implement the increase will not be made until June 2007.

"There are a lot of things we analyze periodically to see if there are things or not," Adams said.

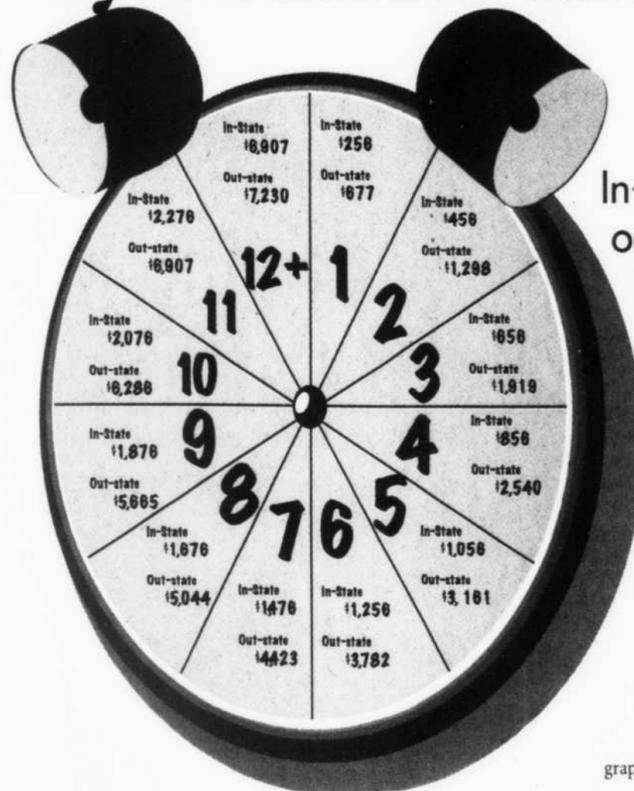
The current payscale has been in place for 50 years, Adams said, and there are "reasons to change and reasons not to change."

Adams said he informed the TBR university presidents, including MTSU's Sidney McPhee about the consideration to change tuition.

McPhee did not return a phone call seeking comment Tuesday.

Kaylene Gebert, executive vice president and provost, said she was unaware of any tuition increase considerations.

This policy consideration comes on the heels of a 4.1 percent across-the-board tuition increase for state colleges by TBR. The increase, which was approved in June, is the lowest in 10 years, TBR officials said.



In-state and out-of-state Tuition by the hour

graphic by Jeremy Wyatt



Chris Young, the 2006 winner of the Nashville-based reality show "Nashville Star," performed with other "Nashville Star" contestants for fans at the Murphy Center Monday night.

## "Nashville Star" stops at MTSU for Week of Welcome

By Andy Harper

Campus Life Editor

The "Nashville Star" tour brought a little twang to MTSU when the reality show's country music hopefuls marched their cowboy boots onto the stage at Murphy Center Monday night.

Singer and songwriter Chris Young, the most recent winner of "Nashville Star," was the center of attention, said Jennifer Holder, senior journalism student and program council chair for Student Programming and Special Events.

"This was a great kick-off for Week of Welcome," Holder said. "Many MTSU students really wanted a country show and I think it went really well."

"After dealing with the MTSU back-to-school traffic and my first day of classes, seeing Chris Young perform was probably the only thing that could have calmed my nerves," said Shannon Rucker, senior animal science major and avid Young fan. "It was an awesome time."

"It was the most reactive crowd we've had in the past couple of years," Holder said. "I think

it was because of the hometown set. Everyone loved Chris Young and the fans even had signs."

"Nashville Star" is a television program similar to "American Idol" where 10 country music artists from around the country compete in Nashville to win the title of Nashville Star.

"Competing on the 'Star' opened so many windows for me in my music career and so many wonderful people that are still close friends of mine," said Erika Jo, winner of season three Nashville Star.

"It was the [Keathley University Center] building manager who suggested that we should get Nashville Star to come to MTSU," Holder said. "The event itself hosted about 3,000 people, which is an excellent turnout for an event on the first day of school."

The total cost was around \$15,000 for the tour, but the tickets were free to students. The cost was covered by the student activities fee fund, Holder said.

"Concerts usually get the smallest amount of money allotted by the student funds, so it was a real treat for students to not have to pay," Holder said.

"Overall, I think everyone was just pleased with the way the 'Nashville Star' tour went, and we are expecting a semester of great programs to follow," Holder said.



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer  
Young's performance was a highlight of Week of Welcome, a several-day stint of university-sponsored events to acclimate new and returning students to campus.

## RIM Web site with sensitive details hacked; security restored

By Andy Harper

Campus Life Editor

A computer hacker breached a Web site containing a file of names and social security numbers for alumni of the Recording Industry Management Program.

It is unlikely, though, that any sensitive information was compromised, said Chris Haseleu, chair of the RIM department.

By law, the individuals whose names were in the file were required to be notified.

There does not seem to be any great concern among the alumni, though, according to one RIM graduate affected by the breach.

"I'm not particularly worried about it," said Jeff Skaggs, a 2003 MTSU recording industry alumnus. "I've taken the necessary precautions and went to all the credit bureaus for free fraud alert options."

"I have talked to a few other alumni, and most do not seem very worried yet."

The Web site breached is a job- and internship-posting forum for RIM alumni.

A few weeks ago, a hacker broke into the Web site and posted information linking to an anti-war site, Haseleu said.

The Instructional Technology Division, which handles all the computers on campus, immediately discovered the problem and started to clean the server," Haseleu said.

The site has since been cleaned up, and the file containing the social security numbers has been removed.

The site is now running with a significantly hardened firewall, Haseleu said.

Alumni who have received a letter are encouraged to check a fraud alert service.

More information on how to set up for fraud alert can be found at [mtsu.edu/~idalert](http://mtsu.edu/~idalert).

# M'Boro airport to undergo expansion

By Dana Owens

Community News Editor

The Murfreesboro Airport is about to undergo \$3 million expansion project that will add additional airplane hangars.

The expansion will help alleviate overcrowding and long waiting lists for private owners to store their planes, as well as help generate money for the airport.

The new hangar additions will include 43 T-hangars and four box hangars, and will be located off the main drag of the airport, according to Chad Gehrke, director of Murfreesboro Airport.

Though a department of the City of Murfreesboro, the airport does not receive any tax dollars for its operation. The airport earns its income through land leases, fuel sales and hangar rent.

The new hangars, however, will not directly impact MTSU's airport expenses.

"The university benefits from the improvements at the airport," Gehrke said. "[It will provide] other income for the airport other than relying on



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

The \$3 million expansion planned for the Murfreesboro Airport will include 43 new T-hangars and four box hangars. In its totality, the expansion will house approximately 50 airplanes, airport officials said.

MTSU relations."

MTSU, according to Gehrke, owns one maintenance building, two hangars and one building they rent from the city. MTSU also has three to four land leases with Murfreesboro Airport.

Paul Craig, chair of the aerospace department, said the new hangars will not affect MTSU or

its students, and added that MTSU built a new hangar last summer.

Each new T-hangar unit can house one aircraft with all 43 units divided between four buildings, and the box hangars can accommodate one or two larger planes that will be housed in two buildings.

As reported in the "Daily

News Journal," the total square feet of the project is 72,212 and will be built on 7.46 acres of land located off of Airport Road.

The expansion will have no financial impact on MTSU's economy, Craig said.

"The new hangars will be owned by the City of Murfreesboro and provide no

direct money to MTSU or its students," Craig said.

Gehrke, however, said that the expansion will indirectly benefit MTSU by providing more revenue through hangar rent and fuel sales, thereby making the airport run more efficiently.

The project is currently in the bidding stage that will officially close Sept. 11, and then it will be

sent back to Murfreesboro Planning Commission for approval, Gehrke said.

According to the DNJ, the airport already houses 59 T-hangars units located inside eight buildings and several larger hangars, and it sees 60,000 operations annually.

# Thursday Football Traffic Overflow

To All MTSU Students and Faculty;

With the season opener against Florida International slated for Thursday at 6 p.m., the Middle Tennessee Department of Athletics is anticipating a large crowd with events planned throughout the campus community during the afternoon and into the evening.

The Greenland Drive Parking Lot will be closed to students all day and Blue Raider fans planning on tailgating will be arriving as early as Wednesday. Activities at "The

Grove" also will take place throughout the day Thursday. (Check for all activities on GoBlueRaiders.com).

Due to anticipation of the event and the large crowd expected, Middle Tennessee Director of Athletics Chris Massaro has released the following announcement regarding this opener:

We certainly recognize the University's academic mission and we realize that playing the football game on a weeknight requires give-and-take on everyone's part, including boosters,

students, and faculty.

We are grateful for everyone's cooperation. We will be adding 20,000 fans to the campus during the first week of class, on Thursday and realize this may create stress on the campus infrastructure.

However, there are plans in place to help alleviate this concern and we trust it will make for a wonderful experience for everyone if the plan is followed.

Overflow parking is at the Tennessee Livestock Center. Fans

attending Thursday's game may ride the Blue Raider Express into the Greenland Drive Lot in order to get into the football stadium.

We realize the inconvenience of closing the Greenland Drive Lot to students all day Thursday. We are asking students to park at the Tennessee Livestock Center that day. While we regret the inconveniences this may cause some of the students, we believe Thursday is going to be a great night for Middle Tennessee because of the exposure generat-

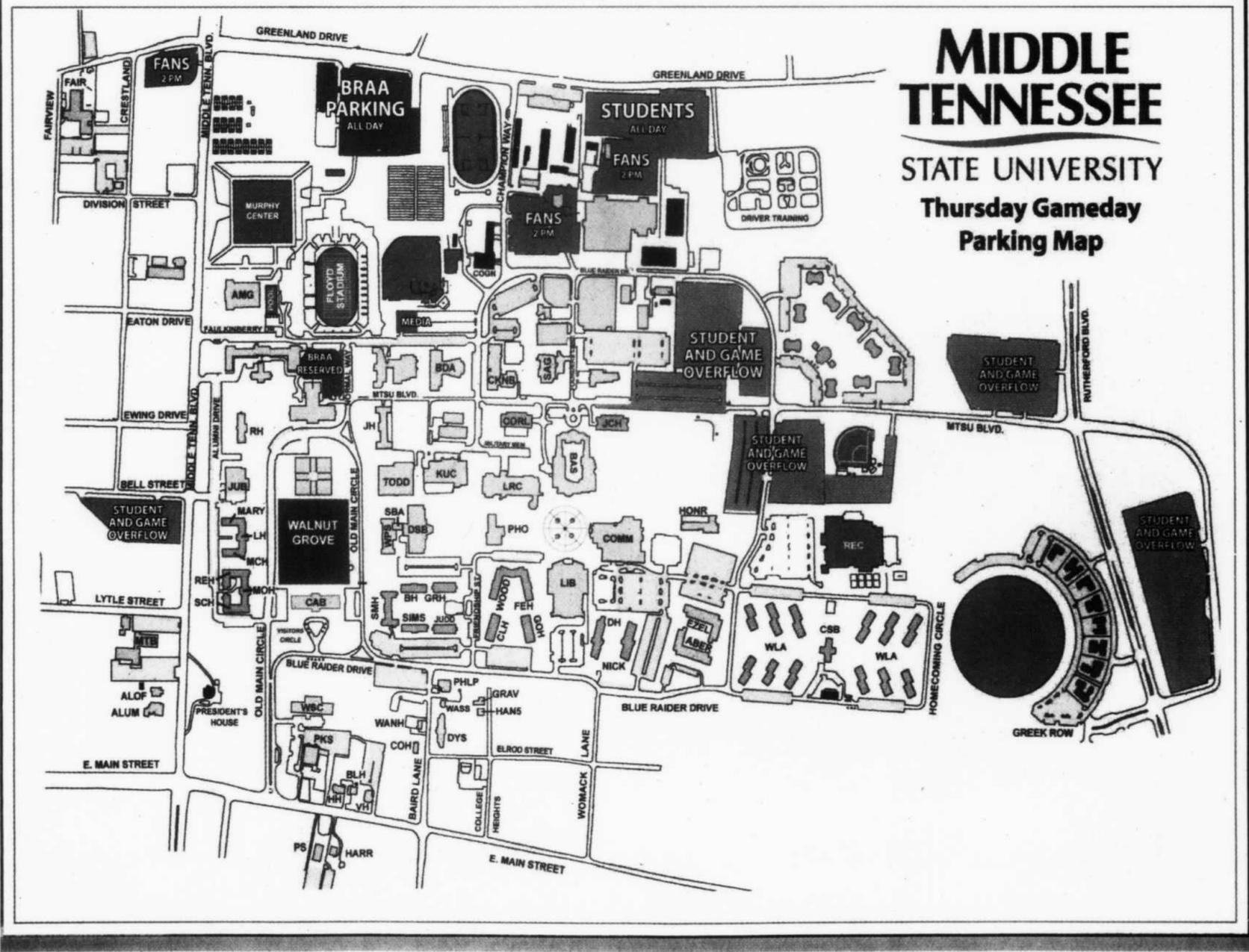
ed, the large crowd we anticipate, and a great start to the school year that would not be possible without the support and understanding of the largest and best student body in the state of Tennessee.

On the more positive side we are excited about all of the activities at Walnut Grove beginning at 1 p.m., where students can participate in the X-Box 360 competition, Aqua Massage, Surfer Machine, Raider Walk, and all types of tailgating opportunities.

Thanks in advance for your support in helping make this 2006 opener a fantastic experience for everyone. We hope to see you at the game at 6 p.m., and get there early.

Let's Go Blue!!!

Chris Massaro  
Director of Athletics  
Be Loud. Be Proud. Be Blue.



## CAMPUS ANNOUNCEMENTS...

### Be Something More!

Greek Life will be holding their Sorority Informational Meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. in the Business and Aerospace building State Farm Room. All ladies who are signed up or interested in participating in Sorority Recruitment September 7-11, 2006 should attend. More information may be found by visiting [www.mtsu.edu/~bemore](http://www.mtsu.edu/~bemore) or by calling 898-5812.

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# Campus Recreation Center Schedule

**Aug. 28 – Dec. 15**  
 Monday – Thursday; 6:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.  
 Friday; 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Saturday; 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Sunday; 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Indoor Pool (Aug. 28 – Dec. 15)**  
 Monday; 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
 Tuesday – Thursday; 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Friday; 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Saturday; 9:15 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
 Sunday; 2:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

**CLOSED**  
 Sept. 2 to 4  
 Oct. 14 to 17  
 Nov. 23 to 25

**CLOSED FOR SEMESTER DEC. 23**

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**Features include:**

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- ✓ Your choice of plans and health care benefits
- ✓ Reasonable premiums – see brochure and enrollment form for coverage & payment options

**Brochures & Enrollment Forms available at the:**

- Student Health Center
- [www.healthbenefitconcepts.com](http://www.healthbenefitconcepts.com) or calling 1-800-463-2317
- on-line enrollment at [www.gmsouthwest.com](http://www.gmsouthwest.com)

This insurance plan does have certain limitations and exclusions. For complete detail see policy on file at the Tennessee Board of Regents.

# MySpace and Facebook: A Place for Investigation?

By Christin Pepple and Brittany Washburn

Contributing Writers

Communication Web sites like MySpace and Facebook could help or hinder recruiting for college students who are looking for a career.

In a recent poll by the National Association of Career and Employment, more than a quarter of employers polled stated that they "Google" candidates for hire.

"I don't think employees should be judged on the amount of work and how well they could perform, based on their MySpace and Facebook profiles," said Megan Holt,

sophomore journalism major. MySpace and Facebook allow personal photographs, descriptions and journals that allow any subject matter to be displayed for the public to read. More and more companies are finding these forums to be harmful to their public relations images.

"The presumption is that anybody can see it," said John Palfrey, executive director of the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law. "It's not hard to get into Facebook no matter who you are."

In a recent survey from CollegeGrad.com, 47 percent of job-seeking college graduates

What qualifies them for a job cannot be based on TV shows they watch.

Jamie Robrtson senior English major

have changed their personal profiles or intend to in order to better their chances of landing a job.

"It would help employers when looking at candidates," said Michael Dezotell, sophomore public relations major.

The networking possibilities for the Web sites are endless in obtaining information about potential job offers. However the information obtained by employers could bring either negative or positive attention to possible candidates.

"Employers shouldn't do it because it is just for fun," said Beshoy Nady, a chemistry graduate teaching assistant.

Facebook has photos updated 1.5 million times each day. It is the seventh most trafficked site in the U.S. and is available to over a thousand corporations in America.

"It is unprofessional of employers," said Jamie Robertson, senior English major. "It is your personal life."

In a five month space, the MTSU Career and Employment center aided over 1,362 students in finding jobs, many of which have either Facebook or MySpace sites.

In March 2005, a University

of Oklahoma student posted a "joke" about assassinating President George Bush. His "joke" resulted in a Secret Service investigation.

"What qualifies them for a job cannot be based on what movies or TV shows they watch," Robertson said. "That doesn't determine the person's ability to complete a job."

This is the first story in a two-piece series that highlights the issue of employers using personal profile Web sites like MySpace and Facebook when hiring a potential employee or to monitor current employees.

## Meet Murfreesboro

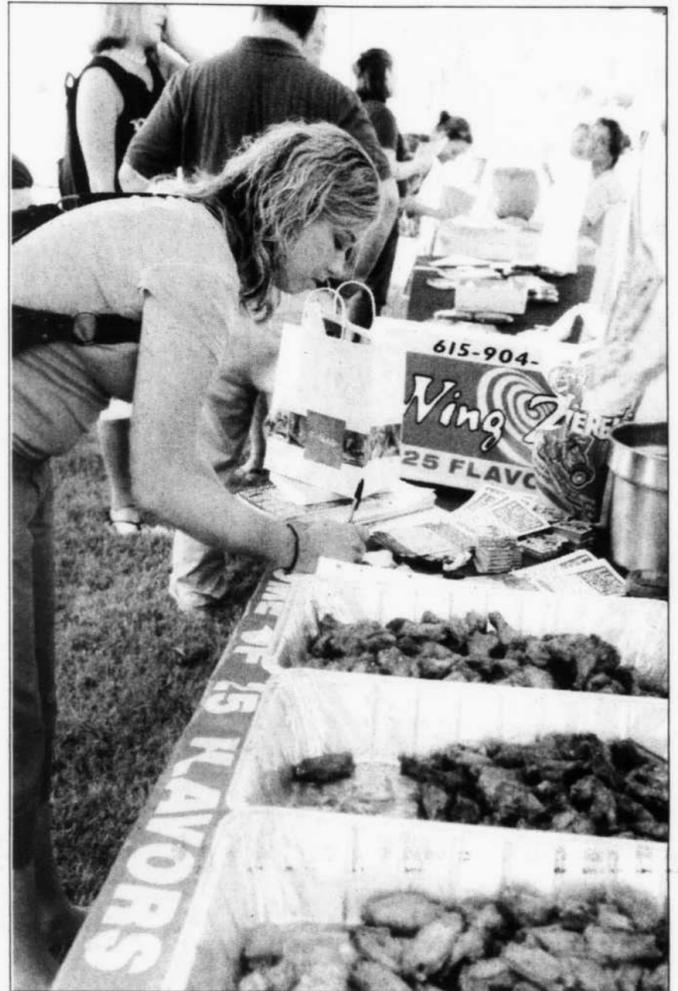


Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer  
Junior education major Meredith Jackson signs up for free food at the Wing Zone booth at the Meet Murfreesboro Fair Tuesday. The event was part of the Week of Welcome series on campus this week.

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A message from the Information Technology Division

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WHO KNOWS — MAYBE THAT LUCKY MTSU STUDENT IS YOU ...BUT YOU'LL NEVER KNOW UNLESS YOU SEND US YOUR KRYSTAL STORY!

## Transport Authority offers afternoon bus service from between M'boro, Nashville; fare \$1

By Dana Owens  
Community News Editor

The Relax and Ride bus service from the MTSU campus to downtown Nashville has added a midday route to better serve commuters and students without a reliable means of transportation.

In addition to the morning and evening stops in Murfreesboro, there will also be a bus departing from the city at 2:09 and 2:14 p.m. From Nashville, the bus will depart for Murfreesboro at 12:18 p.m. The entire commute takes about 85 minutes and includes stops in Smyrna, LaVergne and Bell Road, weekdays only.

The bus route, provided by the Regional Transportation Authority, travels from Mercury Plaza on Mercury and Tennessee Boulevards and the James Union Building facing Tennessee Boulevard to Eighth Ave. South and Broadway in Nashville.

Fare for the bus costs \$2.50 per trip or \$1 for MTSU students, faculty and staff with identification. Reduced fares are also available for children, people with disabilities or senior citizens.

Source: Regional Transportation Authority

Got a news tip?

If so, don't hesitate to call us at 898-2336.





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AT GATE 1A TO GET YOUR FREE TICKET TO THE FOOTBALL  
GAME VS. LOUISVILLE PLAYED AT LP FIELD IN NASHVILLE**

# OPINIONS

## From the Editorial Board

### Though Web sites students' responsibility, not appropriate for character judgements

The debate on whether personal profiles should affect professional lives could be seen as an issue of whether employers possess the proper judgment to accurately analyze a person's full work capacity using only a Web site.

The issue itself might not be much deeper than basing an opinion of someone by the bumper stickers they have on their car or the logos they wear.

Is it a fair judgment to assume that the person riding in the car with the pro-choice sticker encourages women to have abortions, or is it right to say the kid wearing a polo, sunglass straps and khakis is in a fraternity?

Assumptions, judgments and decisions based on speculation and information that is easily distorted to personal opinion and plays towards bias should not have any place in the ultimate ruling of a person's character and ability to perform particular jobs.

If you prefer to go out after work and legally drink and you do not show up late or inebriated the next day, then by all means, go for it.

Somehow, in the middle of your "night on the town," if someone brings out a camera and takes a photo that ultimately ends up on MySpace or Facebook or some other personal profile Web site, then you have a personal photo that is hopefully not embarrassing.

However, the subject of said photo is not an appropriate topic of conversation or reprimands at an office or job interview. If the night in which the photo was taken involves co-workers, the topic is still inappropriate in the office because you probably should be working not talking.

Items such as "wall" comments, postings and blogs follow suit with the expressed opinions on pictures.

One fact remains clear in the issue of whether employers should or should not be observing their subordinates' personal profiles. A user of these Web sites should remain responsible of content.

Blog and picture postings of illegal activities such as drug usage or vandalizing will more than likely make their way into the hands of law officials and could result in serious consequences.

The point of doing something illegal is to do it without being caught - do not hand them the evidence to catch you.

## Words of wisdom for incoming freshmen

It's the first week of class, and I know what you're thinking. Why in the hell do we have so many freshmen on our campus? This is worse than the fanny-pack wearing tourists that raid the streets of Washington D.C. and Disney all summer long. Well, if that is what's on your mind, then you're right on par with me.

It's time to leave for campus an hour early to find a parking space and take that long, vicious hike to class. It's also time to stand in line for ten minutes just to eat a second-hand, Chick-fil-A sandwich from the Grill.

Remember, though, that it's a time of social independence for our new prospective MTSU socialites, freshmen. We have to move over and make way, whether we want to or not.

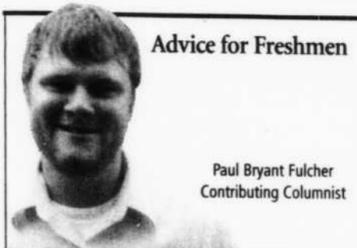
Often, you have a lot of advice given to the freshman class; however, I would like to put it into some simple words of wisdom that I had to learn in order to complete a successful and fun freshman year.

Don't throw large items at people from your high-rise dorm room windows. Extremely fun, yes. Extremely smart, no.

If you have already broken that window screen in your dorm, that's fine. However, chances are, if you get caught this early breaking the rooming policies, your resident assistant will be on your ass the rest of the year.

Go Greek. I hate to be that guy that repeats what you've heard all summer long at CUS-TOMS and Week of Welcome, but I feel joining a fraternity or sorority is the best opportunity to get involved on campus. There is an organization for everyone, and you just have to find your niche.

If you're planning to sleep in class, do not sit in the front row. Yes, all of us doze off a time or 12 throughout the semester but don't make the mistake of doing it where it would obviously



Advice for Freshmen

Paul Bryant Fulcher  
Contributing Columnist

be noticed. Professors dislike that.

Go to as many free food events as possible. From football games, to pep rallies, to the president's picnic, there is absolutely no reason to pay for food the first month of your college career. In case you haven't heard, college freshmen bring up the overall economic status of the ramen noodle industry, so enjoy those free meals while you can.

If you're an OWL, don't be that person that knows more than the professor. Upper-classmen, you all know exactly who I am talking about. Yes, you may be an "older, wiser learner", but no one in class appreciates your condescending remarks. Those kinds of remarks will not gain friends, and will probably get you "shh-ed" or rated low in classes with peer evaluations. Also, don't hit on your classmates who are 30 years younger than you. Instead, pick up woman at Stampede on Saturday nights when a more mature crowd is present.

You can't avoid the Freshman 15, so live with it. The stories you hear are all true. This is due to the overindulgence of beer.

Don't be a porch monkey. One of the greatest games is picking out the girl or guy in your dorm that won't be here in the spring. Chances are, it's the token porch monkey or lobby enthusiast that spends multiple hours

sitting in the front of the dorm with a pack of Marlboros and a Colt 45, throwing away their parents' tuition money.

Do not be that person.

Try not to fart aloud in class. This happened to a girl my sophomore year, and believe me, you can't hide the fact that it was you who crop-dusted the entire classroom. Your classmates won't let you forget either. Flatulence is something that should be taken care of during the 15 minutes prior to entering the classroom.

Don't abuse your "Get out of a Parking Ticket for free" card just yet. The SGA handles various parking appeals, but take it from my personal experience, it gets very old after a point. I'm sure Attorney General Lora Hortert will thank me for what I am about to say.

If you are not handicapped, don't park in a handicapped space. If you have a green decal, don't park in a white decal area. If you can't find a parking spot nearby, the fire lane is not the solution. If you have a problem following these guidelines, maybe you should go to a community college.

You are the author of your own life. Live it like a book and make it a bestseller. Tennessee Higher Education Student Commissioner Sondra Wilson couldn't have summed up the college experience better. Whether you are on the Johnny Bookman schedule or you would prefer to be more like Van Wilder, live the experience. Make the most of it. You have a white canvas. What do you want to paint on it? And, always remember, don't be a fool - stay in school.

Paul Bryant Fulcher is a senior political science major and can be reached at [fulcher@mtsu.edu](mailto:fulcher@mtsu.edu).

## Dear 'Boro, you're boring: we're seeing another city

It's a Friday night, folks - actual day of the week notwithstanding - and I'm all dressed up with no place to go.

Such is life in Murfreesboro, though. We have the people, but we don't have the party. We've got a lot of things here: a dozen different bars, mostly clustered around campus - how convenient - and three times as many bands.

We're cultured in a modern sense, but it's a pretty narrow spectrum - too narrow to keep people around town as day turns into night.

Ask the people around you right now what they're doing this weekend. If they're going out, then odds are pretty good they're not going to Bluesboro or Gentleman Jim's. They're all being drawn away to Nashville and its nightlife.

Let's face it. Murfreesboro is pretty dull after dark. We're a college town, but we're also a bedroom community to Smyrna/Nissan - the two are practically synonymous, for this argument's sake - as well as Metro itself.

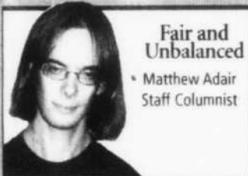
Apparently, the perception amongst civic and business leaders here is that this town doesn't need something to do after the last classes end around nine at night. Shops close up, coffee houses close, and the only thing left to do is get drunk or go home.

That really isn't true, though.

Every time there's been a place in Murfreesboro that young people could go to just to hang out, people have gone there in numbers large enough to be worth noting - and, occasionally, worth calling the police about.

The Red Rose, while it eventually failed as a business because few of its patrons ever had money on them, almost always had people there. The Grind, despite its miserable location and poor ventilation, was filled on a regular basis.

As they say, if you build it, they will come.



Fair and Unbalanced  
Matthew Adair  
Staff Columnist

We're young, ladies and gentlemen in city hall. I understand that you have a duty to preserve the history and tradition of Murfreesboro. I have a great deal of respect for these things. I also understand that you must make space for new business and new opportunities, and that catering to the wants of 23,000 college students probably isn't as high up on the list as building office parks.

Murfreesboro needs us just as much as it needs new offices, new subdivisions and freshly paved roads that won't tear up your car. It especially needs every tax dollar it can squeeze out of us.

Every student who parties in Nashville is one less person feeding the economic engines that keep Murfreesboro going. We're not going to stop unless gas suddenly soars to five dollars a gallon, so the city is going to have to convince us not to go elsewhere.

I'm not asking for the nightlife of a big city, here. We're not Nashville, and we're definitely not Miami or New York. I am asking for someone to take the risk to open a place where people can go to hang out, one that is big enough to be a place for entertainment of all varieties and that can run itself while still being affordable to the majority of us.

It's a difficult balance to achieve but one that would be a welcome and important part of our cultural environment.

At the very least, finding the answer would give us something to do on a Friday night.

Matthew Adair is an senior art education major and can be reached at [matt.adair@gmail.com](mailto:matt.adair@gmail.com).

## Court decision relieves fear caused by dream

I had a crazy dream last night.

It had a real cinematic atmosphere, like an Oliver Stone film. It opened with a tense scene in a chaotic, Washington, D. C. office.

A small group of sweaty politicians schemed in one corner while a teeming mass of ambitious interns and underpaid telecom technicians streamed through the room in an unending river of computer and equipment checks, paper shuffling and coffee refills. In the huddle of clammy public officials, President George W. Bush frowned into the distance.

"Butler!" He snapped at a frantic intern. "Clear everyone outta here. We need privacy so we can lay out Phase II."

Butler waved his spindly arms over his head and squawked, "Listen up, everybody! It's time to clear the Oval Office - oops, I mean, The Secret Headquarters of His Majesty, King George - The imperial masters of the universe will implement Phase II."

Seamlessly, the river of activity collected itself into a deluge and streamed out of the headquarters. Once on the other side of the door, the river quietly broke down into its constituent parts: the frantic interns scuttled down one hall, while the underpaid telecom technicians slunk out of the White House, on their way to unwittingly and half-heartedly lay the foundation for Phase II.

The director's camera in my mind's eye returned to Secret Headquarters and panned around the scene. The imperial masters of the universe had gathered around



Nightmares and Dreamscapes  
Shana Lynn Hammaker  
Contributing Columnist

a long table in the center of the room. They intently studied a blueprint of some kind. The camera pulled away from the study session long enough for me to notice the sign on the wall: "PHASE II: Warrantless Espionage to Secure, Protect and try criminals without Onerous and Needless lawYers annOying Us: WE SPY ON YOU."

One of the imperial masters stretched, broke away from the group, leaned against the sign in a flippant manner and sighed.

"I don't know what you're all so worried about. With the District Court decision handed down in our favor this morning, we're in the clear for Phase II. We'll just reassure the press that this is a natural extension of the foreign terrorists surveillance program. It makes perfect sense.

"Why focus our efforts on foreign terrorists when the terrorist next door could hit us so much quicker? Put that on the front page and John Q. Public will be demanding that we plant bugs in his neighbor's bedroom."

As his rant grew more heated, he uncrossed his arms and gesticulated wildly. The camera focused on his rather childish nametag which read: "Minister of Propaganda - Tony Snow."

Vice President Dick Cheney looked up from the blueprint and blinked. "What?"

"Don't be so stupid!" Karl Rove barked, whose - again, rather childish - nametag read, "Lord and Overseer." When he spoke, all of the other masters of the universe covered visibly.

"How do you young idiots think we got this far? How do you think we achieved that favorable court decision? Do you think it was because of the constitutional virtues of the program? Hell, no! We've come this far by paying the right people, killing the right people and planting the appropriate propaganda - er, messages - in the right places, at the right times.

"Empires don't grow organically, nor do democracies die quietly. We will proceed with the plan as decided."

That was when I awoke with my head aching and Rove's words ringing in my ears.

"That couldn't have happened," I told myself. "They couldn't have won the case!"

With trembling fingers, I powered on my computer. If the case had been decided - in either direction - surely I would have a "Breaking News" e-mail from CNN.com. Some days, I think that CNN.com will e-mail me about the Queen of England's sinus infection.

I opened my inbox.

There it was: "Breaking News from CNN.com."

Scarcely able to breathe, I clicked on the message.

"U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs

Taylor has handed down a ruling against the Bush administration's NSA wiretapping program."

I heaved a sigh of relief and continued to read. In her 40-page decision, Taylor granted the American Civil Liberties Union's request for an injunction against the program, and shot down the president's contention that his role as commander in chief afforded him the opportunity to circumvent our nation's unique system of checks and balances.

She wrote, "There are no hereditary kings in America, and no powers not created by the Constitution."

The nightmarish haze created by my dream began to fade, and I felt better. Yet I couldn't help but wonder, "what if?"

What if Taylor had decided in favor of the government? What then? My gaze wandered out the window to my car, and Benjamin Franklin's eerily prescient words called to me from one of my bumper stickers:

"They who would sacrifice essential liberty for a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

The wisdom of the Founding Fathers is as essential now as it ever was.

Shana Lynn Hammaker is a mass communications graduate student and can be reached at [slh3a@mtsu.edu](mailto:slh3a@mtsu.edu).

## Letters to the Editor

### Online's new look impressive, effective

To the Editor:

The new look of *Sidelines* Online is extremely impressive. I am a member of the community who works in several cultural arts groups, an educator and a mother of two sons in their 20s. The online version of *Sidelines* is an effective way to reach MTSU students, faculty and staff, and it allows me to tap into the events, concerns, dreams and goals of a generation. Congratulations and thanks for a professional publication. Keep up the good work.

Cindy Phiffer

### Campus maps need atlas-like revision

To the Editor:

With the new semester beginning, we all know how important it is for people to find their way around campus. It's not an easy task. I have a simple solution with the campus maps that I suggested a few years ago but it has gone nowhere. Why not format our maps like an atlas? At least you'd get some idea as to where you're at and where you are going. I hope you can get somewhere with this suggestion.

Michelle Higdon, Executive Aide, Computer Science.

## Letters Policy

*Sidelines* welcomes letters to the editor from all readers. Please e-mail letters to [slopino@mtsu.edu](mailto:slopino@mtsu.edu), and include your name and a phone number for verification. *Sidelines* will not publish anonymous letters. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, length and content.

*Sidelines* is the editorially independent, non-profit student-produced newspaper of Middle Tennessee State University. *Sidelines* publishes Monday, Wednesday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters and Wednesday during June and July. The opinions expressed herein are those of the individual writers and not necessarily *Sidelines* or MTSU.

## Correction:

MTSU has already received a grant of \$5 million from the City of Murfreesboro, and the money was used to fund construction on campus. The money President Sidney McPhee plans to ask the City for in the future is of an undetermined amount. *Sidelines* regrets the error.

## SIDELINES

An editorially independent newspaper

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# FEATURES

## Riding the Lightning

By Mary Rose Fox  
Staff Writer

With a mother like Medusa, it's in Pegasus' blood to misbehave from time to time.

Leigh Harlem, who has donned the winged costume of MTSU's mascot since April 2005 understands that antics are part of the fun of playing the role of the mythical, winged horse.

"I love scaring old ladies," Harlem says. "Especially at baseball games. I get the snout just inside their peripheral vision, and they give this big scream."

Harlem is a senior aerospace pro pilot major and

has been a student since 2002. He is also one of the founding fathers of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

In his role as Lightning, Harlem has received accolades two years in a row as the All-American Mascot for 2005-06.

"All-American Mascot means that you show a lot of school spirit; you take the essence of the character and you really run with it," he says.

But becoming Lightning wasn't entirely Harlem's idea.

"A couple of my fraternity brothers were kind of daring me to do it just because I have this really big personality," he says, adding that a cheerleader also

told him he would be well-suited to the role.

After that, he got in contact with cheer coordinator Jonathan Pursley and performed a routine in front of judges before being accepted.

Harlem will be graduating in December, but the torch will be passed. He is currently training Andrew Halford to help him with the mascot responsibility throughout the end of the semester. By then, Halford will be prepared to don the wings and mane.

People have come to recognize Harlem inside and outside of the suit. There is usually a substitute available in case he can't make it to a game or event, but because of his height, Harlem is recognized as "Tall Lightning."

It's also easy to pick out who he is outside of the suit because of his behavior patterns and mannerisms. He says he loves to dance, and that penchant carries over from Pegasus to man. Also, when he greets people, he extends his arm, making a fist. "I've got this thing, I give everyone a 'pound,'" he says.

Harlem can recall numerous interesting moments as Lightning. He says at a basketball game last season, he almost got into a fight with a photographer because he felt Harlem was getting in the way while he was trying to get pictures of the players.

"The photographer did not like me getting in front of his shot, and he pushed me away," he says of the event, adding that the crowd was defending Lightning and wanted him to react - Harlem thought better of it and just walked away.

The suit isn't just for game day. Harlem says he actually went as Lightning to class.

"I sat in my normal seat and distracted the whole class," he says. "It was a lot of fun. And then I wrote on the board, as the mascot, 'class dismissed.'"

After that, the teacher says there was nothing she could do and actually dismissed class, he says.

One of the best parts of being Lightning is getting to interact with children, he says.

"My favorite times are especially with the kids," he says. "They love Lightning."

In one instance, a girl from the Boys and Girls Club grabbed onto him and wouldn't let go, even after he dragged her across the court.

"It was really funny. They [the kids] get really attached to Lightning."

The suit isn't always comfortable, but Harlem puts on a brave face.

"Lightning loves the wind and cold," he says, admitting that it gets a little toasty inside the suit - around 20 degrees hotter than it is outside. He says he tries to dress as lightly as possible, and the suit is clad in a blue shirt and blue shorts. "It's very sweaty."

But there are some little known perks of dressing as a horse with wings. Harlem explained that he gets



File Photo

Lightning's antics, such as his ride on a personal transport pictured above, are a large part of the mascot's appeal.

a scholarship and free books every semester.

He also gets to enjoy down time with cheerleaders, and gets to meet with deans and the president of the university. But the kicker is that he gets his own vehicle. "Lightning has a really awesome go-cart."

Throughout the year, Lightning shows up to as many games as possible. Not only is he at football and basketball games, but he can also be spotted during volleyball, soccer, baseball, softball and tennis matches.

"Soccer is not mandatory, and neither is tennis, but I do them anyway," he says.

Harlem is a dedicated mascot and even received an offer to try out for the mascot of the Atlanta Hawks.

Although Harlem has enjoyed being Lightning, he doesn't intend on making a career out of "mascoting." Once he graduates, he says he hopes to jump into piloting and one day work for an airline.

But because he likes to have fun and enjoys making people laugh, he says he toys with the idea of comedy.

"I have like 15 or 20 voices that I do," Harlem says, then proceeds to do uncanny vocal impressions of Christopher Walken, Keanu Reeves and Marlon Brando.

With all his charisma, Harlem has been able to go above and beyond the call of duty as Lightning. He has truly given our mascot a life of its own, even if a little of the Pegasus' snake-haired ancestry colors his antics from time to time.



File Photo

Lightning gives a shout out to the crowd as he rides in the back of a golf cart for a parade. The blue pegasus appears at games for nearly all of the university's athletic teams, as well as other events.

## Nature Calls, Camping Answers

By Will Cade

Contributing Writer

The Magna Camper: Opportunities in Murfreesboro's V

With the beginning of the semester, many students may fall back into movie going, restaurant frequenting and party crashing during their Friday night ruts, but if those are growing stale, camping in the great outdoors offers a way to escape the grind of civilized life.

If simply conquering the wilderness of a backyard seems daunting - let alone coordinating a camping excursion - don't worry because all the outdoor necessities and information a city-boy, or girl, may need are only a stone's throw away at the outdoor rental area of the Campus Recreation Center.

"We rent backpacks, tents, lanterns, helmets, canoes, kayaks - the basic gear you need to go on an outdoor trip," said Crystal Eldridge, manager of the outdoor rental area. "[They are] all based on a price for students."

Upwards of \$50 for a night on the town in Murfreesboro - the typical dinner and a movie for two - can pay for most of a whole weekend of camping with coolers running only \$3, lanterns are only \$5, and \$9 for a two-person tent at the outdoor rental center. Campsites and food can run an additional \$40.

The rental area not only offers great prices on gear but also consulting services for the curious yet inexperienced outdoorsman, the center's staff said.

"We're available as an outdoor resource to people if they have any questions," Eldridge said. "We want to provide knowledge so that their experience can be the best experience it can be."

For those who don't possess an inkling of outdoor experience, car camping - driving rather than hiking to a campsite - is a great way to get started. This way, it's easy to discover the appealing aspects of hiking and learn basic wilderness skills - all under the hospice of modern technology, Eldridge said.

"You can go a little more plush with car-camping," she said. "Anything you can fit in your car you can take."

Murfreesboro's closest car-camping site is no more than 20 miles drive away on Memorial Boulevard at the Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

"You actually have a drive-in pad and then you have an off-set section of pressed gravel that has a

fire-ring, picnic table and a grill," said Sandy Suddarth, ranger naturalist for Cedars of Lebanon.

Having a car close to the campsite allows campers to bring a cooler full of food and beverages, but no alcohol.

"Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in state parks," Suddarth said. "But each campsite does have a water faucet, so don't bother packing a case of bottled water."

However, a couple of sports bottles may be necessary before hiking at Cedars of Lebanon, Suddarth said.

"We have eight miles of hiking trails," she said "These are loop trails where you come out right where you started." The distances vary from a half-mile trail for beginner to a two- or five-mile trail for more adventurous spirits.

If hiking in late summer sounds too strenuous, bear in mind that trails are mostly in the shade of the tree line, and after completing a trek around the loop, what could be more rewarding than diving into an Olympic-size pool?

And after a relaxing swim, bathhouses at each campground mean dirt and grime from hiking doesn't have to ruin dinner. So don't worry about having to wander through the woods at night with a roll of toilet paper and a shovel, checking over your shoulder for bears and bobcats.

Besides, the wildlife at Cedars of Lebanon isn't very threatening to humans, Suddarth said.

"We don't have what you would call dangerous animals," she said, adding that certain early risers do visit campers. "You might wake up one morning and find a turkey walking around your campground."

After graduating from car camping, there are many more avenues to hone wilderness skills and experience a more rugged outdoor environment.

"There is backpacking, where you have to hike in a couple more miles to where you're going to camp" Eldridge said. "If you're going backpacking for the first time, I suggest you go with someone who's been before."

Because backpacking requires hikers to carry all their supplies on their back, novice campers may need someone to teach them how to pack light and travel safely through a more isolated wilderness, she said.

The added muscle strain of backpacking is a worthy tradeoff for the freedom and sublime atmosphere car camping cannot offer, said MTSU graduate

Chris Floyd.

"It's a spiritual experience for me," Floyd said. "The combination of beautiful grandeur and physical activity has always been good for my soul."

The Outdoor Pursuits Program at the Recreation Center is offering many backpacking opportunities during the fall semester, Eldridge said.

"We go white-water rafting first thing," she said. "We'll go camping on the Ocoee River."

Those who haven't even dabbled in car-camping, much less backpacking, needn't worry - these trips are safe for beginners, Eldridge said.

"There's no experience necessary," she said. "We will have trained and experienced people on the trip."

For outdoor adventures, whether backpacking or car-camping, the outdoor rental area delivers. Who knows, maybe a curious step away from the city grind into the world of camping could turn into a spiritual adventure.

Worst-case scenario? Defending a campsite from an onslaught of wild turkeys.

**Need to Know...**

For those interested in taking part in an outdoor adventure, here's the Campus Recreation Center's schedule of events for the coming months:

- Sept 23-24 Ocoee Rafting \$45 20 person limit
- Informational Meeting: Sept 19 at 5:30 P.M. in front of the Outdoor Rental Equipment Area (although I need to verify this during the day on Tuesday)
- Sept 30-Oct 1 Ocoee Rafting \$45 20 person limit
- Informational Meeting: Sept 26 at 5:30 P.M. in front of the Outdoor Rental Equipment Area (also need to check)

Graphic by Blake Arnold

# SPORTS

## Threlkeld sets tone for Blue Raiders in 4-1 victory

## Coach looks to fill shoes of senior

Monday, August 28  
MT 4  
Alabama A&M 1  
Next Game Evansville  
Friday

By Casey Brown

Staff Writer

So far, so good.

Middle Tennessee soccer remained perfect on the season with a 4-1 win over Alabama A&M Monday night at Blue Raider Soccer Field.

Despite outplaying the Bulldogs throughout the contest, the Blue Raiders trailed 1-0 until nearly the end of the first half. AAMU capitalized on one of its two shots in the first half, as Rachel Sepeng put in a rebound off MT goalkeeper Courtney Fortner to take the early lead.

In the 43rd minute, MT sophomore Kala Morgan corralled a defender's header and beat Bulldog goalkeeper Priscilla Mensah in the top corner to even the score.

The game's defining play occurred in the 56th minute, when freshman Jennifer Threlkeld made a big first impression.

As teammate Rebecca Rodriguez sent a well-placed corner kick to the near post, Threlkeld burst in front of the oncoming keeper and deposited the ball in the back of the net, providing the game-winning goal.

MT head coach Aston Rhoden noted afterward that the freshman's play turned the tide and sparked a fire under the Blue Raiders for the remainder of the game.

"I think Jennifer Threlkeld came in and ignited this team with her mentality inside the box," Rhoden told MT Media Relations. "It is good to see us do that this early in the season."

After Threlkeld's score gave the Blue Raiders a 2-1 advantage, the MT offense continued to find openings. In the 75th minute All-Sun Belt selection Holly Grogan took the ball deep into Bulldog territory before playing a cross to Kaley Forrest, who sent a gentle chip over Mensah to increase the lead to 3-1.

Grogan was not done on offense, however. The junior gave the ball to newcomer Sara Beth Lee and broke into a run towards the goal. Lee played a tight ball back to her teammate between the keeper and two defenders, culminating in Grogan's first goal of the season.

The sequence capped a busy night for Mensah, who recorded 16 saves.

Rhoden was pleased with



Photo by Jay Richardson | Chief Photographer

Above: MT remained scoreless until the 43rd minute of the game, when sophomore forward Kala Morgan matched Alabama's first goal.

Right: Senior forward Rebecca Rodriguez drives the ball down the field against a Bulldog opponent.

Below: Sophomore forward Kala Morgan goes in for the kick.



the tenacity of his squad in an early-season match.

"He (AAMU coach Frank Davies) is a defensive coach and they made it difficult on us tonight," Rhoden said. "It

was great to see our girls persevere and come from one goal down to win by three goals against a very good team."

The win gave Middle

Tennessee its first 2-0 start since 2003, while the Bulldogs dropped to 2-1. Monday marked the seventh consecutive win for MT at Blue Raider Field.

The Blue Raiders will host the Middle Tennessee Invitational this weekend and play its first match against Evansville Friday at 7 p.m.

By Clarence Plank

Staff Writer

Middle Tennessee guard Bud Howard was dismissed from the men's basketball team for an unknown reason last week, leaving a Blue



Howard

Raiders starting spot up for grabs. MT head coach Kermit Davis would not discuss the reasons for Howard's release.

"We appreciate all the effort that Bud gave us last year," Davis said. "We wish the best of luck. We hope he does well and continues the pursuit of his college degree."

Howard, a transfer Lincoln Trail Community College in Robinson, Ill., started 16 of 26 games last season, averaging 6.7 points and 4.2 rebounds per game.

With Howard's dismissal, sophomore Calvin O'Neil and redshirt freshmen Darren Avery, Desmond Yates and Marques Dawson will all be battling for the open guard position, with the possibility that all of them could see playing time this season.

"Desmond Yates is maybe our best talent," Davis said. "If Desmond can play with some toughness then he has a chance to be good player at a young age."

Demetrius Green is another possibility for a starter. He averaged 17.3 points per game, along with 135 assists and 54 steals for Daytona Beach Community College.

"Fifth-year senior Kyle Young is one of the most improved players in our league from last year," Davis said. "Tim Blue is recovering from knee surgery, but he has a chance."

Blue, who averaged 9.3 ppg last season, was hurt in April of this year but is expected to return. Donaries Hair and Adam Vogelsberg are also expecting to return from injuries this season.

Perhaps trying to avoid the same injury scenario this season, Davis said that they have been concentrating on weight training and the conditioning of the team with the help of assistant coach Artie Pelelea.

"We had a bunch of high school guys and bunch of new guys that have never really prepared in the weight room like they needed to, but I think we have addressed that," Davis said. "I think we have gone from the weakest team in the league last year, because of being so young, perhaps, to the top two or three strongest teams. The biggest emphasis this summer has been the strength and conditioning."

The Blue Raiders will face a tougher schedule this season as they play Indiana State, South

See Howard, 9

## Cross country teams look to old and new faces

By Sydney Warneke

Contributing Writer

As students and faculty alike return for the fall semester, sports teams around campus are preparing for their season openers.

Setting their goals and then striving to reach them, the Middle Tennessee cross country team will open the season Friday in the Belmont Opener in Nashville.

Beginning with their first official practice yesterday, both the men's and the women's teams will be looking both to returning runners as well as walk-ons for success this season.

"It's really hard to tell at this point how this season will go," head coach Dean Hayes said. "We'll just have to see what happens and see who all comes out."

The women's team will feature four of the top

five runners from last season, but the men's team lost their top two runners to graduation.

Among the four returning members for the men's team, Tony Carufe is the only senior. Carufe finished 46th in the Belmont Opener, 42nd in the UTC opener and 16th in the UTC invitational, all 5K courses. He then finished 16th in the Arkansas State Invitational and 40th in the Sun Belt Championship, both of which are 8K courses.

Sophomore Ryan Hood experienced various levels of success last season, including finishes of 65th at the Belmont Opener and 29th in the UTC Invitational on the 5K course. Hood went on to finish 36th in the five-mile run at WKU Old Timers Classic with a time of 33:28.10, 33rd at the Arkansas State Invitational and 64th at the Sun Belt Championships.

Sophomore Luke Pflieger placed 59th last season at the Belmont Opener and 47th at the UTC opener. Participating in the five-mile run at the

WKU Old Timers Classic with a time of 31:50.80, Pflieger also came in 27th at the UTC Invitational and 62nd at the Sun Belt Championship.

Junior Matthew Young placed just ahead of Pflieger in the Belmont Opener, taking 53rd place. Young placed 44th at the UTC Opener and finished 30th in the five-mile run at the WKU Old Timers Classic. He followed up with 17th place at the Arkansas State Invitational, 22nd in the UTC Invitational and 58th at the Sun Belt Championships.

For the women, all-Sun Belt sophomore Ashley Comstock will lead a seven-member squad that finished third last season in the Sun Belt Championships, the team's best finish since joining the conference.

Comstock, who won the Arkansas State Invitational last season and finished fifth in the conference championship, was the top finisher for the team in all six races last season and finished

69th in the NCAA Hammond.

Sophomore Kaitlyn Hampton also experienced considerable success last season, finishing 59th in the South Regional after finishing 11th in the conference championship.

Following Hampton in the SBC championship were junior Marjorie Gombert and senior Sarah Lunning, who finished 17th and 24th, respectively. Sophomores Tiffany Sawyer and Ashleigh Thaler round out the women's squad.

As both teams prepare for Friday's race, Hayes was reluctant to pin the entire season on the first race.

"There's no way to predict what will happen," Hayes said. "We aren't sure which teams will be there. We'll have to wait until after the first meet to see where we stand. The biggest thing is to get started and get organized."

# 2006-2007 Women's Soccer Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown (Prev. School)
0	Erynn Murray	GK	5-9	FR	Kernersville, N.C. (R.J. Reynolds)
1	Courtney Fortner	GK	5-8	SO-1L	Lakewood, Calif. (St. Joseph HS)
2	Kaley Forrest	MF	5-2	JR-2L	Franklin, Tenn. (Franklin HS)
3	Elise Hutter	D	5-5	SO-1L	Miamisburg, Ohio (Miamisburg HS)
4	Katie Daley	MF	5-5	SO-1L	Cardiff, Wales (St. Illtyds Roman Catholic)
5	Kate Donnelly	D	5-4	FR	Fort Wayne, Ind. (Canterbury HS)
6	Jennifer Threlkeld	F	5-6	FR	Carrollton, Texas (Newman HS)
8	Mary Zapapas	D/MF	5-6	FR	Centennial, Colo. (Arapahoe)
9	Kala Morgan	F	5-5	SO-1L	Aberoare, Wales ()
10	Kathrine Andresen	MF/F	5-4	FR	Oslo, Norway ()
11	Kim Farrant	MF/F	5-5	SO	San Diego, Calif. (San Diego Mesa College)
12	Rebecca Rodriguez	F	5-0	SR-3L	Dallas, Texas (Bishop Lynch HS)
13	Lauren Eaton	D/MF	5-6	FR	Coppell, Texas (Coppell HS)
15	Jeanette Heltne	MF/F	5-5	FR	Oslo, Norway (Wang Upper Secondary)
16	Holly Grogan	F/MF	5-10	JR-2L	Bexhill, England (Claverham CC)
17	Sara Wohlhueter	D	5-11	SR-3L	Franklin, Tenn. (Franklin HS)
18	Nenita Burgess	D/MF	5-3	SO-1L	Adelaide, Australia (Cardijn College)
19	Sara Beth Lee	D/MF	5-8	FR	Waynesville, N.C. (Tuscola HS)
20	Caitlin Reeves	D	5-7	SO-1L	McKinney, Texas (McKinney HS)
25	Katy Rayburn	D	5-5	SR-3L	Franklin, Tenn. (Franklin HS)
28	Ingrid Christensen	D/MF	5-7	JR-1L	Sandefjord, Norway (Oslo University College)

Head Coach: Aston Rhoden  
 Assistant Coach: Adam Sayers  
 Graduate Assistant: Laura Miguez-Howarth *Courtesy of MT Media Relations*

## Howard: Coach seeking players to step up and fill in

Continued  
from 8

Dakota State, and a full schedule of in-state rivals, including Austin Peay, Belmont, Cumberland, Memphis, Tennessee State, and the University of Tennessee.

Middle Tennessee opens its season against UT in the first game of the season in Knoxville, the first meeting of a four-year deal that has UT coming to Murfreesboro in the 2008-2009 season.

At this point, however, Davis said he was content to focus on the Blue Raiders, and so far he has been pleased with the team's progress.

"I'm extremely excited about coaching the guys that are on our team," Davis said. "It's probably the best I've ever felt about the work habits and the closeness of the group. I feel good about that."

*Photo from MT Media Relations*

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